

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 6, 1892, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Florence, Wednesday. April 6th, 1892. My darling Alec:

I am so very sorry I wrote as I did yesterday, I beg your pardon, I ought to have known that there must be some explanation, but I really did seem to have cause for feeling hurt, for not only had Mr. Hitz written when you did not, but he wrote two days after the receipt of my second cable, and you had made no sign. I thought if you really realized how troubled I was you could not have helped writing at least a few lines no matter how busy you were, and today I see I was right, you did do so, only somehow your letters did not reach me. There are three of them all dated and stamped on different days, yet they have only just reached me, and all together I feel that I was lacking in love and duty to you to allow you to go home alone. I ought to have gone with you and I have been feeling this ever since and grudging each day. I cannot bear to think of that long journey from Genoa. An idea has struck me today, that if Miss Clark will come with us I will ask Mr. McCurdy to escort me home at once from France or England and let Miss Clark bring the children by Genoa. I shall be quite satisfied to do this, they will be as safe with her as with me. I have learned to feel perfect confidence in her good sense as well as kindness. By sailing from Havre I gain more than the four days between the 16th and 20th for the voyage thence is only eight days, and from Genoa it is twelve. I feel so troubled about you dear, it is a comfort to have you cable that you are well and strong, but that was only at the beginning of the strain, how are you now, how will you be at the end. Elsie is perfectly satisfied to be left in Miss Clark's charge, but I have not dared to tell Daisy, for I know she will not approve. She has matured very greatly, and has far more thought and care for me than Elsie. This is natural, and the consequence of Elsie's continued invalidism which has accustomed her to be looked after and not to look after others, and understanding this I do not feel as hurt as I used to sometimes. Did you tell Daisy to take care of me? Because she has been so much more thoughtful since your visit than she was before you came. Elsie is very sweet tempered, and it is absolutely impossible for her to be sulky, she was very winning last night when after arguing and fighting me about something she suddenly turned around and laughed. She sat up yesterday, and again this morning, but said it tired her today, but I shall make her get up again this evening. There is no weakness apparent in her strong, quick, vigorous movements. Dr. Baldwin did not brush her throat this morning and has only been in once, he says she is getting well now, but that it has been a hard fight, he never had such a stubborn fight before, the diphtheria has lasted double the time he ever before knew it to last. I suppose he knows what he is about, but Dr. Coldstream who came in yesterday while Dr. Baldwin was away, and who by the way was Mr. Storrow's physician, seemed surprised to find her so strong and with no headache or difficulty in swallowing.

I wish I had sent Mr. McCurdy home, or rather let him go when he intended, but I did not understand from your telegram that 3 you wanted him, and I was so anxious and troubled just when he was going to sail that I did not dare to let him go. If anything had happened to Elsie I should have needed him so much. Please, please take care of yourself my own darling. I do love you very dearly.

Ever yours,